

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 5-19 have been added.

The Office Action dated March 31, 2004, has been received and carefully reviewed, together with the prior art reference identified therein. As a result of this Office Action, claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krigmont, and claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krigmont. The section 112 rejections have been addressed by the above amendments. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-4, along with newly added claims 5-19, patentably distinguish over the prior art.

By the above amendment, the phrase "for use in a boiler" has been changed to "for a boiler," and the phrase "loading means serving for loading" has been changed to "loading means for loading." Because claim 1 no longer recites an intended use of the invention, it is submitted that claims 1 provides antecedent basis for the phrase "the reducing agent" in claims 2 and 3.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krigmont. Claim 1 requires a NOx removal system for a boiler comprising loading means provided at an outlet of a gas passageway in a boiler body. Krigmont discloses a boiler 36 and a

urea source 51 in the boiler 36. Krigmont does not show a gas passageway in a boiler body, an outlet of a gas passageway in a boiler body, or loading means provided at an outlet of a gas passageway in a boiler body as required by claim 1, and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Krigmont.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are therefore submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krigmont. Claim 4 requires a NOx removal system for a boiler comprising loading means provided at an outlet of a gas passageway in a boiler body. As argued above in connection with claim 1, Krigmont does not show loading means provided at an outlet of a gas passageway in a boiler body as required by claim 4. Claim 4 therefore distinguishes over Krigmont for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Newly added claims 6-19 are also submitted to be allowable over the prior art. Claim 6 requires a NOx reduction system including at least one nozzle in a boiler body directed toward an outlet of at least one gas passageway defined by plurality of heat transfer tubes in the boiler body between a burner and an exhaust gas exit, and a source of a reducing agent connected to the nozzle. The prior art does not show a NOx reduction system having the claimed structure. Claim 6 is therefore submitted to be allowable

over the prior art. Claims 7-15 depend from claim 6 and are therefore submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 6. These claims further define an arrangement of heat transfer tubes and relationships between the heat transfer tubes and the nozzle. These structures and/or arrangements are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art, and claims 7-15 are submitted to further distinguish over the prior art for this reason.

Claim 16 requires a method of removing NO_x from a boiler that involves providing a supply of a reducing agent, injecting the reducing agent into a gas flow leaving a gas passage in a boiler to mix the reducing agent with the gas flow, and directing the gas flow mixed with the reducing agent past a NO_x removal catalyst. The prior art does not show or suggest a method that includes these steps, and therefore claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-19 are submitted to be allowable over the prior art.

Two replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith which include legends in or adjacent to elements 14, 15 and 16 in these figures.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated March 31, 2004, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and examination and allowance of claims 5-19 is earnestly solicited.


Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Drawing Sheets